

element 17 to increase reaction rates, such as for film deposition, etching, melting or other modification. The controlled atmosphere of reactive gas is provided within a closed reaction chamber 13 which is sufficiently sealed to hold sub-ambient pressure in the ~700-450 torr range. A stream of reactive gas is injected through injector nozzle 23. Chamber pressure is maintained by balancing the rate and amount of gas injected into the chamber with the amount of gas withdrawn through exhaust nozzle 24 and exhaust port 25.

In the claims

Please cancel claims 15, 21-22 and 30-33.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

2           6.       (Once Amended) The scanning plasma reactor of claim 5 wherein said beam forming module comprises at least two cylindrical refractive elements.

A marked up copy of the specification and claims as amended is attached hereto.

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner states that the subject application contains claims directed to three patentably distinct species and requires affirmation of the prior election of claims. Accordingly, the applicant confirms the election of Species I, Figure 2, claims 1-20 and 23-29, and has cancelled claims 21-22 and 30-33 through the above amendments.